

CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER

COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



A Message from the Mayor..



Normally in the May Newsletter, I would be passing along to you all of the fantastic summer concerts and events that will be coming up soon, but this is not a normal year by any stretch of anyone's imagination. Already we have lost our Street Tree Giveaway, Art Stroll,

Blues & Ribfest, Music in the Park for the month of June and perhaps more.

This is not a normal year. Everyone was looking forward to the year of 2020, thinking it would be something special. Instead, it has turned out to be a year of disappointment...the year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Most of us thought this kind of tragedy could only happen to other countries and not to the U.S.A. We have learned very quickly how vulnerable we really are to a Pandemic. Businesses and people throughout the entire nation have been kicking in to do whatever they can do to help out. There are businesses making masks that never even saw a mask before, businesses making hand sanitizers that never made hand sanitizer - and donating it to first responders and the Rickenbacker Air National Guard. Some of those companies are right here in Canal Winchester.

When their Scouting for Food drive was canceled due to the pandemic, the Canal Winchester Boy Scouts went to work and did a fantastic job with their Community Week fundraiser, and with the help of our community, raised over \$80,000.00 for Canal Winchester Human Services Emergency Assistance program and The Community Food Pantry program. Great job guys!

I'm sure that there are more stories like this that haven't rolled across my desk yet, and I'm sure there will continue to be more. Even though this pandemic has been tough, it has also brought out the best in Canal Winchester and all across the nation - and every one of us should be damn proud of ourselves. We live in a great Nation, a great State and "*The Greatest Little City in Ohio*."

Stay tuned to the City website for updates on what is happening in the City and for potential openings or cancellations. Hopefully, this will pass soon and we can get out and enjoy all of the great things our city has to offer.

One good piece of information I want to pass along...We are now officially announced as the recipient of the McGill Park Grant, nearly \$500,000 that we have been waiting on for almost a year now. Whew, we didn't think that was ever going to happen! With that, we are hopeful to get started on phase I of McGill Park by this fall.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy. "We are in this together" and "We will get out of this together."

Mayor Mike

Spring Events Canceled

The following spring events have been canceled:

- Art on the Canal (May 16)
- Kris Sims Memorial Relay for Life Dinner (May 20)
- Touch-A-Truck (May 22)
- Memorial Day Ceremony (May 25)
- Music in the Park (June 19)

COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACT

The closure of retail stores, restaurants, and other businesses as a result of the Ohio Department of Health's Stay-At-Home Order will have a direct impact on the City's income tax revenue, our single largest funding source for general government activities. Currently, we are estimating a loss of approximately \$650,000 in income tax collections or 10% of estimated revenues in our General Fund for 2020. We will also be experiencing a collection delay of approximately \$850,000 due to the income tax filing and payment deadline extension to July 15th.

Revenue loss and delay is generally associated with the need to reduce or cut services provided to residents in order to close any budget shortfalls. We are very fortunate, however, in Canal Winchester to have a healthy carryover balance as the result of conservative spending, proper planning, and positive economic development over the last several years. City spending has been limited to necessary expenses, and larger projects have been reviewed for financial feasibility to ensure we are being fiscally responsible with our cash flow - which is important at all times, and especially during these unprecedented times. Because of our planning, we will be able to continue offering the same services in spite of any loss of revenue this year.

As we move into the summer amid the COVID-19 crisis, City finances will continue to be monitored and adjustments made where necessary to help us remain fiscally sound for years to come!

CW POOL WILL NOT OPEN THIS YEAR

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in consideration of public health, the City of Canal Winchester will not open the Canal Winchester Municipal Pool in 2020.



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City of Canal Winchester
36 S. High Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS & TREES

If you’ve spent any time around plant enthusiasts or garden centers, you may have noticed native plants are all the rage. Perhaps it’s because the familiar monarch butterfly caterpillar can only feed on our milkweeds, an emotional love/hate relationship we have with our lawns, or a very doable call to action amidst a myriad of environmental concerns.

Native plants are those found growing naturally in a given area, pre-European settlement, as evidenced from botanical specimens in herbaria, written narratives, and scientific records. Ohio has thousands of species including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants like ferns, grasses, and flowers that originally occurred in a largely forested environment, with few Native American cultivated openings. Glaciers shaped the Midwest, leaving unique niches and exposing various layers of bedrock within hills and caverns, streams and lakes, and flat deposits. The diversity in habitats allowed many different species to grow under varying conditions- so while sourwood, purple coneflower, and horsetail are all native to Ohio, they will not be located together.



If you smell natural gas, remember these three words: Stop. Leave. Call.

Natural gas is naturally colorless and odorless. So, Columbia Gas adds an odorant called mercaptan to give it a distinctive smell — similar to rotten eggs or petroleum — making it easy to identify should a gas leak occur.

If you smell a rotten-egg-like odor, follow the ground rules from Columbia Gas and keep yourself, your family and your neighbors safe.

STOP what you’re doing.
Don't smoke or light a match. Don't open the windows. Don't use anything that could cause a spark, like a phone, light switch, appliance or flashlight. Don't start your car or use your garage door to leave.

LEAVE the area immediately.
If you're inside, get out immediately. If you're outside, leave the area quickly.

CALL 911 and Columbia Gas.
From a safe location, away from the odor, call 911 and the Columbia Gas emergency number 1-800-344-4077, and wait for crews to arrive.

Plants, animals, and insects that evolved together throughout millennia have developed carefully balanced, mutually beneficial relationships. That’s the reason non-natives are often untouched by insects- and while this may be aesthetically pleasing to us, their biological benefit and function is limited. Meanwhile, recent research demonstrates that natives do heavy lifting by feeding bugs that are essential to the food chain. For example, trees including oak, cherry, and willow each support over 400 species of butterfly or moth while perennial asters and goldenrods support over 100 species each. These bugs feed birds (about 30% of which have declined since the 70’s), pollinate flowers and fruit, and turn over soil debris into rich humus that supports crop growth.

In many places, the only remaining habitat exists in our own yards. Gardeners have a say over how this important space is used and their role in connecting greenspaces- no matter how small- is vital. Planting native is an easy and low-maintenance activity, and every local garden center carries native plants, or “nativars”, cultivated native plants bred with desirable traits.

City Operations — To minimize possible impacts to our operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we’ve developed work groups with staggered shifts. As restrictions are lifted, we will review recommendations and best practices and will make decisions regarding ongoing operations as needed.

City Phone Numbers

Main Number	614-837-7493
Clerk of Council	614-837-7493
Clerk of Court	614-837-7691
Community Affairs	614-834-9915
Community Center.....	614-837-8276
Construction Services	614-834-5109
Development Department	614-837-1894
Finance Department	614-837-6937
Human Resources	614-834-5118
Mayor Michael Ebert	614-837-7493
Public Service Department	614-834-5100

Water 614-837-5623

After-Hours Phone 614-837-7478

Streets, Lands, & Buildings 614-524-0163

Urban Forestry 614-834-5110

Waste Treatment 614-837-2254

After-Hours Phone 614-837-7478

Utility Clerk 614-837-7716 || Sheriff Substation | 614-837-7478 |

For complete directory listings, visit www.canalwinchesterohio.gov

Mowing Tips

Blowing grass clippings into the streets and gutter pans can clog storm drains and cause flooding.



Mow High

Mow Your grass to 3-4" to preserve moisture and out-compete weeds.

Let It Lie

Leave grass clippings on your lawn to recycle nutrients

Learn more at getgrassy.org

GET GRASSY!
Clean water by the yard.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

Instead, discharge the mower’s grass clippings onto the lawn. This summer, remember: it’s best to Mow High and Let It Lie.



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